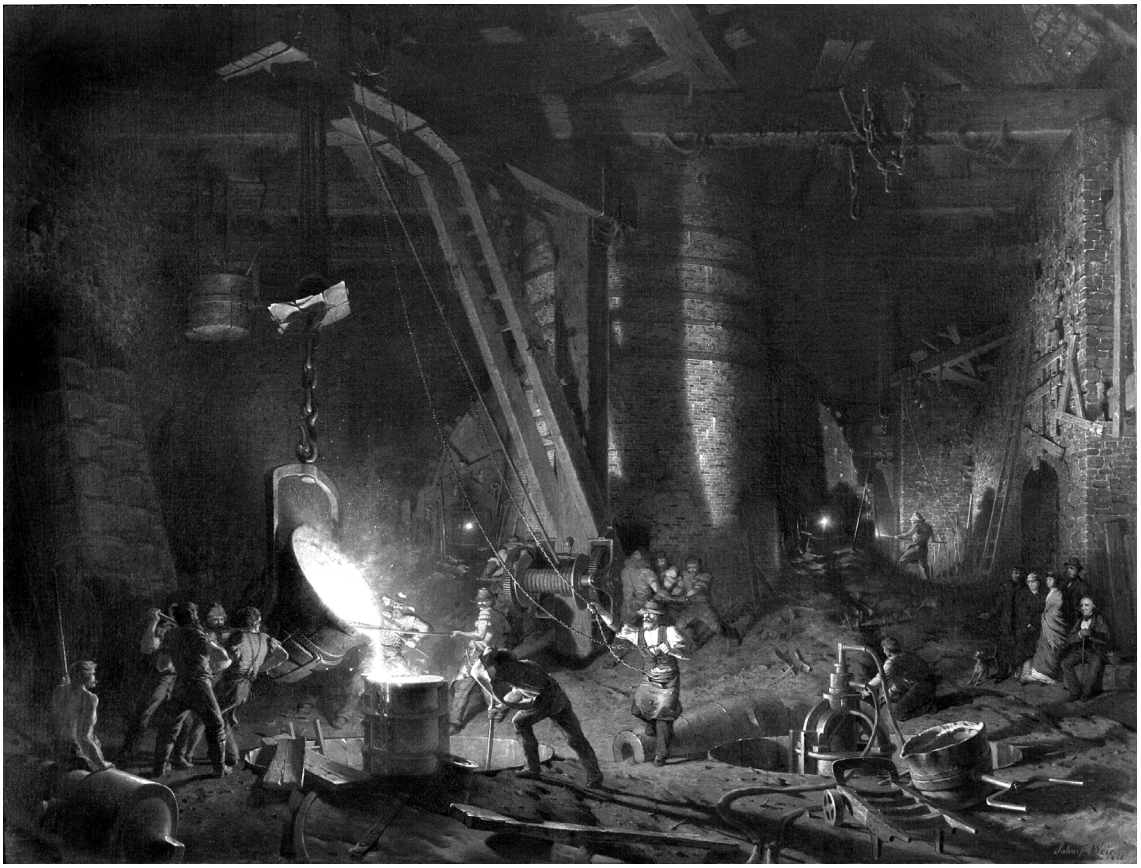

The Gun Foundry (1864–1866), John Ferguson Weir. Oil on canvas. Original in the collections of the Putnam History Museum, Cold Spring, New York.

Name of Property:	West Point Foundry Archeological Site
City, State:	Village of Cold Spring, New York
Period of Significance:	1817–1867
NHL Criteria:	1 and 6
NHL Theme:	I. Peopling Places 3. migration from outside and within 4. community and neighborhood IV. Shaping the Political Landscape 3. military institutions and activities V. Developing the American Economy 4. extraction and production 5. workers and work culture VI. Expanding Science and Technology 1.experimentation and invention
Previous Recognition:	2010 National Register of Historic Places 1973 National Register of Historic Places (West Point Foundry District)
National Historic Context:	*Labor Archeology of the Industrial Era Theme Study* (2015) I. Business

A. Extractive or Mining Industries
1. Iron and Ferro Alloys
XVIII. Developing the American Economy
G. Industrial Production Processes
XXX. American Ways of Life
E. Ethnic Communities
J. Occupational and Economic Classes

NHL Significance:

- The West Point Foundry Archeological Site consists of the most intact archeological remains of one of the largest early industrial iron and brass manufacturing plants in the United States. The site is significant under NHL Criterion 1 for its influence on trends and events in the nation's military and political history from 1817 to 1867 as well as contributions to the expansion of American industry and commerce. It is also significant under NHL Criterion 6 for the high integrity of its archeological remains, which has yielded, and has the potential to yield, information of major scientific importance to an understanding of American industrial processes, manager-labor relationships, and the lives of the diverse groups laboring at the foundry.
- West Point Foundry was a pacesetter in America's industrial revolution and its products central to the nation's development. The locomotives and steamships it manufactured expanded commerce between regions, cotton presses increased production in Southern states, while foundry-cast pipes and mains supplied water to New York City, Chicago and Boston, facilitating the growth of cities and industry. Fueling the infancy of a global economy, the foundry produced steam engines and machinery that advanced sugar refining processes in the West Indies and flour mills and burr stones exported to Austria and Canada.
- West Point Foundry also played an important role in the Civil War. It developed and manufactured the Parrott gun, a rifled cannon whose long-range accuracy made it the mainstay of the Union artillery—used in every major engagement after the first Battle of Bull Run—and one of the technological innovations that led to the conflict being called the world's first "modern war." The 1,700 Parrott guns and 1.3 million projectiles produced at West Point Foundry were considered so important to the North's success that President Abraham Lincoln visited the ironworks in 1862. At the war's height, the foundry employed 1,500 workers.
- Previous archeological investigations at the site have yielded data on foundry and ironworking practices as well as the landscape and social history of single-industry company towns significant to the nation and labor culture rooted in national historical trends of the early to mid-nineteenth century. The West Point Foundry Archeological Site offers unique and irreplaceable opportunities for investigating the evolution of foundry and ironmaking technologies and the material culture of labor that are together underrepresented in the study of antebellum American history and culture.

Integrity:

- In comparison to sites similar in theme and period, the West Point Foundry Archeological Site presents outstanding archeological integrity. A number of excavations on the site

have already produced a wealth of data regarding industrial processes and construction and the domestic lives of its diverse workforce and management. These excavations also indicate that subsurface integrity remains high throughout the site with a number of key areas remaining entirely intact.

- The *design* of the site is conveyed through its intact layout and further demonstrated through several extant masonry features associated with its interconnected activity areas. Unlike many similar industrial sites that have been graded for redevelopment, the building and structural footers of the site remain largely intact (though concealed) and serve as waypoints for guiding research and informing visitors. The *setting* of the site is also remarkably preserved through major terrain features, such as Foundry Brook and Foundry Cove that help define the landscape that encompasses the site, and remain much as they were in the mid-nineteenth century.

Owner of Property: Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York

Acreage of Property: 90.8

Origins of Nomination: The nomination was sponsored by the site owner, The Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- The nomination provides the opportunity for the NHL Program and NPS to represent a key turning point in American industrial history that created a reduced need for American reliance on munitions and other products from England and European countries, reinforcing the growing spirit of nationalism and America's determination to be self-sufficient and independent.
- The property highlights the national significance of archeological work that examines technological advances during this period, environmental impacts of industrialization, and the effects of industrialization on a variety of facets of American culture.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None are known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of September 9, 2020):

- Representative Sean Patrick Maloney – 8/28/2020
- New York State Historic Preservation Office – 8/31/2020
- David M. Reel, Executive Director, West Point Museum, United States Military Academy – 8/20/2020
- Mark Forlow, Board Chair, Putnam History Museum – 8/18/2020
- Cassie War, Executive Director, Putnam History Museum – 8/18/2020
- Richard Laudenat, Past President, American Society of Mechanical Engineering – 8/27/2020
- Scott Keller, Acting Executive Director, Hudson River Valley Greenway – 9/7/2017
- Larry Turk, Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt-Van Buren National Historic Sites – 9/11/2017

- Michelle D. Smith, Executive Director, Hudson Highlands Land Trust – 9/12/2017
- Terrence P. Murphy, Member, New York State Senate – 9/11/2017
- Diane Bowers, Superintendent of Schools, Haldane Central School District – 9/26/2017

National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:

- The National Historic Landmarks Committee had no substantive comments or corrections.

National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the West Point Foundry Archeological Site in Cold Spring, New York, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: